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COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF THE WHOLE QUESTION OF PEACE-KEEPING OPERATIONS IN ALL THEIR ASPECTS

Report of the Secretary-General

I. INTRODUCTION

1. This report is submitted pursuant to paragraph 10 of General Assembly resolution 46/48 of 9 December 1991, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to collect information on peace-keeping training and similar activities and further requested him to issue a list based upon national submissions and to bring it up to date regularly.

2. In implementation of the above provision, a circular note was sent to all States, requesting information about their training activities for peace-keeping. Replies were received from 21 States, as follows: Australia, Belarus, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Denmark, Finland, Ireland, Latvia, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Philippines, Poland, Russian Federation, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Uruguay.

3. Some of the replies are quite detailed, including course outlines and manuals. They are being held in the Department of Peace-keeping Operations and are available to delegations on request. 1/ It is intended that Governments will be approached from time to time with a view to keeping the materials up to date. Meanwhile, it is requested that those Governments that have not supplied information about their peace-keeping training programmes in time for this report do so in due course.

4. The replies received so far show that training for peace-keeping takes place generally in the context of participation in a particular peace-keeping operation. The four Nordic countries (Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden)

are an exception to this, with their joint training programmes. Several countries have specialized courses for different categories of personnel, notably military observers. The length of the training ranges from a few days to two months, and the content varies accordingly. A number of programmes include refresher training of basic military skills in order to ensure a high level of competence. Some of the courses cover the full range of subjects listed in the United Nations "Training guidelines for national or regional training programmes", which was made available to Member States in 1991.

5. All States were asked about the participation of foreign nationals in their training programmes. The replies did not contain much information on this subject. However, Switzerland provided details of a military observer course held this year for 30 officers from five countries.

6. A brief summary of the replies follows.

II. SUMMARIES OF REPLIES RECEIVED FROM MEMBER STATES

AUSTRALIA

7. Australia provides peace-keeping training to members of its Defence Forces assigned to serve in United Nations peace-keeping operations. The training is given to contingents on both an individual and a group basis and in specialized areas such as mine awareness and medical training for Federal Police personnel in the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC). Such preparatory training is designed to meet the specific requirements of each operation in which Australia participates. The duration of the training depends on the operation and the urgency of deployment. Australia also provided training assistance to the New Zealand Defence Forces personnel before participating in UNTAC by acquainting them with Australian equipment.

BELARUS

8. Training programmes for peace-keeping operations are presently being formulated.

BRAZIL

9. Training programmes for peace-keeping operations in general are provided to infantry units of the Brazilian Army and to the marine corps of the Brazilian Navy. Specific training (mission training) is provided immediately after a decision is made to deploy either military observers or contingents.

CANADA

10. In addition to basic military training, the Canadian Forces prepare their regular units and military personnel for peace-keeping operations by providing mission/rotation training for specific peace-keeping missions; contingency training conducted by the stand-by forces (based on an infantry battalion); military observer training; and occasional seminars and briefings, on request. The duration of the various training activities depends on the urgency and requirements of the mission.

COLOMBIA

11. The Colombian Military Forces and the National Police Forces provide training/information programmes to military observers and civilian police. The programmes are tailored specifically to the peace-keeping operation in which the unit/personnel are to serve.

DENMARK

12. The Danish Defence Forces provide basic training for peace-keeping operations as an integrated part of the military training of all army personnel. In addition, officers and non-commissioned officers (NCOs) are trained in the tactics, skills and organization of peace-keeping operations as an integrated part of their professional training. General peace-keeping training of personnel designated to be assigned to a specific mission is conducted by the Danish United Nations Stand-by Forces. Immediately before deployment to the mission area, designated units receive pre-mission training designed to meet the requirements for the individual tasks of the units. A joint peace-keeping training programme is also conducted within the framework of the Nordic Committee for Military United Nations Matters. Consequently, Denmark sends military observers to Finland, staff officers to Sweden, and logistics officers to Norway. Within this framework, Denmark trains military police officers and NCOs. Besides the Nordic countries, this training is open to other countries on a case-by-case basis.

FINLAND

13. The Finnish Defence Forces conduct peace-keeping training for all military personnel and units prior to their assignment to a peace-keeping mission. Finland also conducts a training course for military observers. This three-week course takes place within the framework of the Nordic Committee for Military United Nations Matters and is designed primarily for Nordic officers. If resources permit, officers from other countries are also accepted. As part of the Nordic countries' peace-keeping training programmes, Finland sends staff/officers to Sweden, logistics officers to Norway and military police personnel to Denmark. All peace-keeping training in Finland is organized and conducted by the Finnish United Nations Training Centre in Niinisalo.

IRELAND

14. Within the Irish Defence Forces, all personnel who are selected for a peace-keeping operation receive training according to mission requirements. The principal training for service with United Nations peace-keeping operations takes place twice a year, prior to unit rotation. General preparation, training of subunits and operational conditioning under battalion control takes place in Ireland, while the "hands on" training is conducted in the mission area. Besides operational training, staff training is comprised of media training, which provides guidance to battalion commanders and selected officers on the techniques of communication and how to deal with the media.

LATVIA

15. Latvia does not have a peace-keeping training programme, but the Government plans to develop such a programme in the future.

LUXEMBOURG

16. Currently, Luxembourg organizes centralized training in collaboration with Belgium and within the framework of the Belgian/Luxembourg United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) battalion. This training is for one to two weeks before the joint deployment to the mission area. The training comprises basic United Nations peace-keeping training, as well as detailed information about specific aspects of the deployment area. Luxembourg also benefits from Austria's offer to have one officer per year participate in its military observer course and one in its staff officer course.

NETHERLANDS

17. The Netherlands Army has established a Peace Force Training Detachment to prepare units and personnel for service with peace-keeping missions. Before deployment, two weeks of preparatory training is provided to units and one week to individuals, e.g. United Nations military observers. Each training programme is tailored to meet the requirements of a specific operation in which the Netherlands will participate.

NEW ZEALAND

18. The New Zealand Army is involved in several peace-keeping operations. Consequently, training and pre-deployment preparation is fashioned to correspond to each mission. The pre-deployment training for units encompasses general information about the United Nations and the specific mission (United Nations module), specialist training (e.g. military observer, mine clearance training teams, signals) and language training. The training takes from two

to three weeks, after which the trained personnel will generally return home to await call-up. Before deployment, the contingents will usually be concentrated for final issues, briefings and administration.

NORWAY

19. Peace-keeping training is provided to personnel who are designated for immediate duty in one of the ongoing peace-keeping operations or who belong to the Norwegian United Nations Stand-by Forces. Personnel and units participating in ongoing peace-keeping operations undergo a three-week peace-keeping training programme (five weeks for officers) immediately before rotation. The units of the Stand-by Force conduct a two to three-week peace-keeping training every second year; staff exercises are conducted every year. Military observers, staff officers and key personnel in command and logistic and military police functions are trained within the framework of the Nordic United Nations peace-keeping courses, under which Norway is responsible for the training of logistic officers. This course is open for other countries on a case-by-case basis. Information concerning peace-keeping is also provided to students at various military schools.

PHILIPPINES

20. The Philippine Armed Forces organize training/orientation programmes for members of the Philippine contingent serving in Cambodia. Similar training/orientation has also been provided to members of the United Nations Guard Contingent in Iraq. The training is for a four-day period and provides a background to the principles of United Nations peace-keeping, as well as country and culture orientation.

POLAND

21. All personnel to be deployed in a peace-keeping mission undergo preparatory training. This includes training for logistic, infantry and medical units, military observers, headquarters personnel, United Nations military police and the United Nations guards. Three to four weeks before deployment in the mission area, the troops are assembled to be formed, trained and equipped. In addition, special courses are organized in advance, providing in-depth training in various specialized areas such as operations, administration, logistics, observer duties, etc. The training is conducted at the Military Centre for United Nations Peace-keeping Operations in Kielec.

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

22. Within the Russian Federation, the Defence Ministry conducts a two-month annual training course for military observers. In 1993, the course will be expanded, allowing 100 military observers to be trained annually. With

respect to sharing experience about training military personnel for United Nations peace-keeping operations, the Russian Federation currently cooperates with the Nordic countries, particularly with Finland.

SPAIN

23. The Spanish Armed Forces have no regular peace-keeping training for national contingents. At present, officers selected for United Nations observer missions in which Spain participates receive four weeks of training prior to taking up their assignments.

SWEDEN

24. Sweden provides centralized peace-keeping training to units and individuals serving in a peace-keeping mission. The training includes preparatory training for units, as well as for individuals, prior to deployment in a peace-keeping mission. In addition, units of the Swedish United Nations Stand-by Forces undergo training annually. Besides training for military personnel, Sweden provides training for civilian police, election monitors and personnel belonging to the Swedish Disaster Relief Organization. All peace-keeping training takes place at the United Nations Training Centre in Almnaes.

25. Within the framework of the Nordic peace-keeping courses, Sweden sends military observers to Finland, logistical officers to Norway and military police to Denmark. Within that context, Sweden conducts a three-week course for staff officers, pre-designated for a staff function in one of the missions in which the Nordic countries participate. This course is open to other countries on a case-by-case basis.

SWITZERLAND

26. So far, the Swiss non-combat units serving in peace-keeping missions have been medical contingents. Such personnel receive in-house training provided by the Swiss Army. In order to meet the peace-keeping requirements regarding military observers, Switzerland organized in 1992 an initial three-week training course for officers from Austria, Denmark, Finland, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland. The Ministry for Foreign Affairs has also developed a training programme for election monitors. So far, more than 50 persons have received such training; additional courses will be organized in the future.

UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

27. Military personnel deployed on peace-keeping duties are drawn from regular service units. Within this context, the United Kingdom undertakes short two-day briefing packages for those deployed as United Nations Military

Observers; these courses are normally related to the particular mission concerned. In addition, the United Kingdom runs training packages for units designated for a specific mission. A number of paper exercises and studies related to peace-keeping are held within the United Kingdom's Service Staff College.

URUGUAY

28. Personnel selected to serve in United Nations peace-keeping operations receive training prior to taking up their assignments.

Notes

1/ For information regarding the texts of the replies, contact the Department of Peace-keeping Operations of the Secretariat (telephone (212) 963-2626).